

One portion of the island will be dedicated to sports talk, another will focus on Christian talk, and so on.

[0265] The map will be displayed with rolling hills, water, forests, deserts, and other terrain. Radio towers will be displayed as icons. The display will be dynamic and will reflect what is happening at the moment. The radio tower icons' appearance will change based on advertised bandwidth, whether the stations are currently broadcasting, whether they are full, whether they are marked as "favorites", and other criteria. The user can zoom-in and zoom-out, scroll to other portions of the map, click on a radio tower to find out more information about the station, and access other related functions. The display will be "live" in that information displayed for the station will change dynamically as the station's status changes. For example, if a station becomes "full", the icon will change immediately to reflect the new status.

[0266] This portal will be a completely Web-based application, and not require any additional software to be installed on the user's system. When the user click on the "Play" button to listen to a broadcast, the Web site which implements the principles of the invention will launch the appropriate application already installed on the user's computer (e.g. Windows Media Player, QuickTime, Real Player, etc.).

[0267] Definitions

[0268] As discussed herein, a "computer system" is a product including circuitry capable of processing data. The computer system may include, but is not limited to, general purpose computer systems (e.g., server, laptop, desktop, palmtop, personal electronic devices, etc.), personal computers (PCs), hard copy equipment (e.g., printer, plotter, fax machine, etc.), banking equipment (e.g., an automated teller machine), and the like. Content refers to application programs, driver programs, utility programs, file, payload, etc., and combinations thereof, as well as graphics, informational material (articles, stock quotes, etc.) and the like, either singly or in any combination. A "communication link" refers to the medium or channel of communication. The communication link may include, but is not limited to, a telephone line, a modem connection, an Internet connection, an Integrated Services Digital Network ("ISDN") connection, an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) connection, a frame relay connection, an Ethernet connection, a coaxial connection, a fiber optic connection, satellite connections (e.g. Digital Satellite Services, etc.), wireless connections, radio frequency (RF) links, electromagnetic links, two way paging connections, etc., and combinations thereof.

[0269] System Overview

[0270] A description of an exemplary system, which incorporates embodiments of the present invention, is herein described. FIG. 26 shows a system block diagram of one embodiment of a network system 10 in which the system and methods of the invention are used. Referring to FIG. 26, the network system 10 comprises a service center 12 that is connected over one or more communication links 20 to a remote network 30 (e.g., a wide area network or the Internet) or a remote site (e.g., a satellite, which is not shown in FIG. 26) to one or more user computer systems 40₁-40_N ("40"). In one embodiment the service center 12 is a website. The service center 12 includes one or more servers 22 and one or

more databases 24. In one embodiment, the server 22 includes software modules for performing the processes of the invention, as described in detail in the following sections.

[0271] The server 22 may be coupled to one or more verification entities such as entity 60 for verification of credit information and for processing credit transactions. The service center 12 may also include one or more computers 26₁-26_M. If a plurality of computers are used, then the computers 26₁-26_M may be connected by a local area network (LAN) or any other similar connection technology. However, it is also possible for the service center 12 to have other configurations. For example, a smaller number of larger computers (i.e. a few mainframe, mini, etc. computers) with a number of internal programs or processes running on the larger computers capable of establishing communication links to the user computers.

[0272] The remote network 30 or remote site allows the service center 12 to provide information and services to the user computers 40₁-40_N, using software that is stored at the service center 12. The one or more databases 24 connected to the service center computer(s), e.g., computer 26₁, are used to store database. Each user computer 40₁-40_N is connected over a corresponding communication link 42₁-42_N such as a local carrier exchange to a respective ISP 44₁-44_N, through which access to the remote network 30 is made. By inputting the URL address of the target website with which the user desires to interact, the user may be connected to various websites, such as websites 50₁-50_{NN}. In an alternate embodiment, each user may be connected over a corresponding communication link 48₁-48_N to the service center 12, which provides internet access and service to the user computer(s) 40. In a further embodiment, the display screen for viewing the graphical user interface of the invention may be located on a television coupled to the network 30. For example, the end user may be a viewer of a set top box television. In this case, navigation through the graphical user interface of the invention may be provided through the use of control buttons on a remote control unit for controlling viewing of the television, or by other means known in the art.

[0273] One aspect of the present invention relates to the development of software and a graphical user interface for presenting, locating, and identifying streaming media provided on a website. Such a development process may occur on a computer system that is separate and apart from the service center 12, or may be developed using one of the computers 26₁-26_M. Alternatively, the development process may occur on a computer that is not coupled to the communication network. Upon completion of the development process, the code may be stored in the database 24. Alternatively, the code may be stored on a machine-readable medium, such as a diskette, CD or DVD. In one embodiment, the service center 12 that is connected over one or more communication links to a remote network (such as the internet) may be requested to provide the code for use on a client website. In this embodiment, the code is stored on the database 24. Alternatively, the code may be provided on a machine-readable medium such as a diskette, a CD or DVD, for use by a client to enhance his/her website.

[0274] Referring to FIG. 27, the computer system 2700 (representing either of computer 26 or 40) comprises a